

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
0300 Philadelphia, PA, Area Office

LEAD INFORMATION WORKSHEET

LEAD#: 0302-M043

LEAD NAME: Demolition of Weirton Steel Basic Oxygen Plant - Weirton, WV

Received Date: 07/16/2019

Received By: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Date Assigned: 07/16/2019

Agent Assigned: Not on Record

Disposition: Closed w/ Notification

Violation: Air (CAA)

Media:
Lead Closing Justification / Case Opening Justification:

All investigative information was briefed to RCEC Perry McDaniel, Region III, on August 1, 2019. It was identified that the states requirements for demolition had been meet; asbestos inspection and removal had been completed, the permits had been obtained, and there was even a WV DEP inspector on site at the time of the implosion. Based upon the documentation received from WV DEP it would appear no criminal violation took place. Regarding the dust particles caused by the implosion, the lab results received from WV DEP was sent to NEIC and on July 31, 2019, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA-CID, was contacted by Kristen Keteles, Toxicologist. Keteles advised that the results suggested a minimal hazard based on the results in one of the reports and no hazard based on the results from the other report. Keteles relayed that the minimal hazard identified would have become even more diluted once the particles mixed into the ground. Based upon response letters sent from WV DEP, they also suggest that no environmental violations had occurred, according to their monitoring procedures. Based upon all the information, a referral was made to Kristen Hall, EPA Region III Acting Chief Air Section Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division. Hall advised she would review the information and move forward with the matter, whether that included her section seeking civil enforcement or a referral to another division within EPA Region III.

Summary of Allegations:

UPDATE: On July 30, 2019, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) discussed this lead with SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The purpose of the discussion was to request support from NEIC. SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised (b) (6), would take the information provided by SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and discuss with toxicology professionals. SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) provided SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) both lab reports and copies of the WV DEP responses to Plaintiffs' attorneys (via email).

On July 16, 2019, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA-CID, recieved a telephone call, from an anomonus caller, at the EPA office located at 1060 Chapline St. Wheeling, WV. The caller stated there was disturbing video footage, on the website www.youtube.com, of the demolition of the Weirton Steel Basic Oxygen Plant, located in Weirton, WV. The video footage was thought to be of possible interest to EPA-CID.

Upon conducting an open source search of the internet, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) found multiple news articles and videos of the implosion identified by the anomonus caller. The video footage dipicted images of the plant imploding, and a large plume of dust spreading across the area; eventually covering multiple homes in the vicinity of the event. In addition to the video footage of the implosion, there was also a news investigative report (by WTRF 7 News) that provided details on the fact that multiple residents had been forced from the homes.

The following is a list of articles and videos detailing the events previously mentioned:

<https://youtu.be/S3DNRxvD6Dk> (Drone Footage of the Demolition)

<https://youtu.be/7oDx50nBEfg> (New Investigative Report by WTRF 7 News)

Agent Signature: AUG-21-2019, Signed by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), SA
Supervisor Signature: SEP-12-2019, Approved by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), ASAC

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LEAD#: **0302-M043**

<http://www.cdrecycler.com/article/video-weirton-west-virginia-oxygen-plant-demolished/#.XS3j2L3I-NY.email> (News Report)
<https://www.wtrf.com/community/former-weirton-steel-basic-oxygen-plant-demolition-could-lead-to-class-action-lawsuit/> (News Report of Possible Class-Action Lawsuit)

Investigative Activity Reports (IARs):

Subject of Report	Reporting Agent	Activity Date	Status
<u>Coordination with WV DEP</u>	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	<u>16-JUL-19</u>	<u>Approved</u>

Location of Violation:

Street: <u>Weir Ave.</u>	Federal District: <u>NDWV</u>
City: <u>Weirton</u>	Lat: <u>40.4110</u>
State: <u>WV</u> Zip: <u>26062</u>	Long: <u>-80.5845</u>
County: <u>Hancock</u>	
Country: <u>US</u>	

Source(s) of Information:

Directed to CID By: Anonymous

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Organization</u>
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Agent Signature: AUG-21-2019, Signed by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Supervisor Signature: SEP-12-2019, Approved by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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